

Remarks

Claims 1-12 are pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, Applicants have added new claims 13-21. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the subject specification and in the claims as originally filed (see, for example, the previously presented claims and the as-filed specification at page 10, last paragraph, page 22, last full paragraph). Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 1-21 are currently before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and the rejection of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 1-12 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of "obviousness-type" double patenting over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,974,796. A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted with this Amendment which obviates this rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an indication of Applicant's agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the invention(s) disclosed in the subject application, including any subject matter canceled or not pursued during prosecution of the subject application, in a related application.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant believes that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer